



July 30, 2013

Statement of National Taxpayers Union on the Scalise Carbon Tax Amendment to the REINS Act

Dear Members of the Rules Committee and Leadership of the House of Representatives:

The 362,000-member National Taxpayers Union urges the Rules Committee and House Leadership to expedite a vote on RSC Chairman Scalise's amendment to the REINS Act, which will be debated on the House floor tomorrow. This amendment is entirely appropriate with the goals of the underlying bill, which seeks to reestablish a degree of authority over significant rulemaking whose costs and scope are more properly debated in the legislative branch. Chairman Scalise's amendment simply states that any type of carbon tax shall not be imposed unilaterally through the Executive Branch, but rather at Congress's prerogative. Even supporters of the carbon tax should be able to agree that a policy with such major implications for the revenue and economic structure of the country deserves full and open debate among the People's elected representatives. In the past NTU has expressed serious reservations about the viability of a carbon tax, more recently in the context of deficit reduction proposals.

The House has an excellent opportunity prior to adjournment for the district work period to affirm its proper role in the tax and regulatory policymaking process, and the Scalise amendment is an excellent way of doing so. NTU would include a "yes" vote on this amendment as a pro-taxpayer vote in its annual Rating of Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Sepp", written over a horizontal line.

Pete Sepp
Executive Vice President